

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed 28 December 2006 has been received and considered. In paragraph 2 of his Action the Examiner indicated that claims 5, 6, and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner further indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Responsive to the indications of the Examiner the Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 6. It follows that claim 1, as amended, is essentially claim 6 rewritten in independent form.

Similarly, applicant has amended claim 4 to include the limitations of claim 5. It follows that claim 4, as amended, is essentially claim 5 rewritten in independent form.

Furthermore, claim 8 has been amended to include all of the limitations of its base claim, namely claim 1. It follows that claim 8 has now been rewritten in independent form.

In view of the indications of the Examiner and the instant amendments, claims 1, 4 and 8 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 3, 7 and 10 all depend from claim 1, as amended. It follows that these claims should now be allowable for the same reasoning which supports the allowability of claim 1, and further in view of the additional limitations set forth in those claims.

Claim 9 depends from claim 8 and therefore should be allowable for the same reasoning which supports the allowability of claim 8 and further in view of the additional limitations set forth in claim 9.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 under 35 USC 102(b), applicant submits that in consideration of the reasoning advanced above and the instant amendments, the aforesaid rejections have now been rendered moot. Therefore, Applicant accordingly respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims of its application.

Respectfully submitted,

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